

Charter School Application Process

**Charter Schools Program
Office of School Transformation
Division of Innovation and Effectiveness**

November 9, 2015



**SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

2016 Application Deadlines and Submission Procedures

- A Letter of Intent must be submitted at least 90 days prior to submitting an application to the proposed sponsor **and** the SCDE. **November 3, 2015**
- Completed application packet by **February 1, 2016** for charter schools that plan to open for the 2017–18 school year.
- Applications received *after* the deadline **will not** be considered for a 2017–18 opening.
- Applications must be submitted to the charter's proposed sponsor and a copy to the SCDE.

2016 Application Deadlines and Submission Procedures

- Applicant shall notify the local delegation of the county which the proposed charter is to be located.
- Only applications that are **complete** and follow the provided guidelines will be considered.
- Applicants may amend applications after submission if the sponsor determines that an application does not meet one or more of the standards and it may request clarifying information from the applicant prior to or during the hearing. The sponsor has the authority to incorporate this clarifying information into the application.
- Applicants should verify with their proposed sponsor whether this submission should be an electronic or paper copy.

2016 Application Review and Selection Process

- Within 90 days of receiving a completed application, the sponsor will review and rule on the application in a public hearing.
- If there is no ruling within 90 days, the application is considered approved.
- Once approved, the charter school may open at the beginning of the following year.

2016 Application Review and Selection Process

- A sponsor shall deny an application only if the application:
 - does not meet the requirements specified in 59-40-50 or 59-40-60,
 - fails to meet spirit and intent of the Charter Schools Act of 1996,
 - adversely affects the other students in the district in which the charter school is to be located, or
 - fails to demonstrate a substantial capacity to establish a viable school.
- Within 10 days, a written explanation of the reasons for denial must be sent to the charter committee and filed with the SCDE

2016 Application Approval Process

